

## In the Claims

1-10. (cancelled)

11. (new) A device for pumping fluid, comprising:

a hydraulic tank;

a drive mechanism; and

a hydraulic pump with an external gear pump mechanism coupled to said drive mechanism, said gear pump mechanism being housed in an integral coupling piece in a form of an independent base plate with a first and second sides connected to said hydraulic tank and said drive mechanism, said first and second sides having first and second flange elements, respectively, with substantially similar external dimensions, said flange elements having an external circumferential sides with radial recesses receiving seals overlapped by a free end on at least one of said hydraulic tank and said drive mechanism;

whereby, differently sized hydraulic tanks and different types of drive mechanisms can be interchangeably coupled to said coupling piece in a manner of a building block system with said hydraulic tank, said drive mechanism and said hydraulic pump being three separable and independent components of the system, and with said hydraulic tank and said drive mechanisms being on one of said first side and said first and second sides, respectively.

12. (new) A device according to claim 11 wherein

said pump mechanism comprises gears fully contained in and integral with said coupling piece.

13. (new) A device according to claim 12 wherein  
said gears are in a pump chamber of said coupling piece and are rotatably mounted in  
bearing bushings of said coupling piece.

14. (new) A device according to claim 13 wherein  
a suction line connects said hydraulic tank to an interior of said pump chamber for  
conveying fluid.

15. (new) A device according to claim 14 wherein  
a feed line extends inside said coupling piece and inside said pump chamber; and  
a tap line opens into said feed line for a pressure relief safety.

16. (new) A device according to claim 11 wherein  
said drive mechanism comprises an electric motor.

17. (new) A device according to claim 16 wherein  
said electric motor is a rotary current motor.

18. (new) A device according to claim 16 wherein  
said electric motor is a direct-current motor.

19. (new) A device according to claim 16 wherein  
said electric motor is a suboil motor in said hydraulic tank.

20. (new) A device according to claim 11 wherein  
said drive mechanism is a hydraulic drive.
21. (new) A device according to claim 11 wherein  
said drive mechanism comprises a drive line coupled to said hydraulic pump; and  
a fluid seal is at a site of said drive line.
22. (new) A device according to claim 11 wherein  
said pump mechanism comprises gears in a vertically extending central plane of said  
coupling piece, and drive shafts for said gears; and  
said drive mechanism comprises a drive line, said drive shafts and said drive line  
extending transverse to said central plane.
23. (new) A device according to claim 11 wherein  
said hydraulic tank is a closed structural unit; and  
only fluid contents of said hydraulic tank supply a consuming device in fluid  
communication with said pump mechanism.
24. (new) A device according to claim 11 wherein  
said hydraulic tank and said drive mechanism are coupled on said first and second sides  
of said base plate, respectively.

25. (new) A device according to claim 11 wherein  
said hydraulic tank and said drive mechanism are both coupled on said first side of said  
base plate.

26. (new) A device according to claim 25 wherein  
said drive mechanism is housed inside said hydraulic tank.